



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One miner killed at Bell County mine

Fatality is first reported in 2014 in Kentucky

Frankfort, Ky. (Oct. 8, 2014) – Kentucky Division of Mine Safety officials say one miner was injured and later died last night following a mining accident. The deceased miner has been identified as Justin M. Mize, 31, of Harrogate, Tennessee. The accident was reported at 6:34 p.m. Tuesday at the Tinsley Branch Mine in Bell County. The operation is licensed by Commonwealth Mining LLC.

Preliminary information from the Division of Mine Safety indicates that a right-side highwall miner cutter chain broke within a 68-foot-deep hole. Mize was attempting to retrieve the chain when he was struck by a rock. The division continues to investigate the accident. This is the first mining-related fatality in Kentucky in 2014.

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